



UCA News from around YP

December, 2025

An Initiative of the Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Council

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Our Vision

Reaching the whole community with the abundant love of Christ.

Our Mission

Reflecting the hope we have in God's love and compassion, by engaging with the people in the community.

1Peter 3:15

Worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it in a gentle and respectful way. (NLT)

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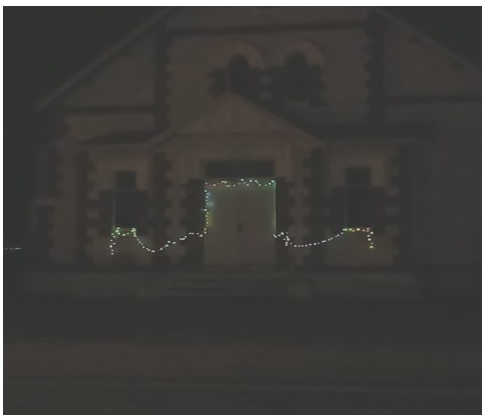
LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." (John 1:1-5 NLT)

This is one of those biblical passages that we may have become so familiar with that it loses its impact. I still remember learning the first few words in Greek: "en arche en ho Logos", and feeling a different kind of impact to when we say those words in today's language: "in the beginning was the Word".

I have been musing recently on the difference between John 1:1 in the original Greek and today's English. When those Greek words were first penned the Church was young, vibrant, full of hope and the desire to share the Gospel message with those around them. Read those words out loud and feel the impact of them: "en arkay en hoe Logos" (that's how to pronounce them). How powerful they sound! Now say them out loud in English. They are still very, very powerful words.

Having worshipped on a Sunday with a goodly number of our YP congregations during 2025, I have heard many a church-goer lament what their church has become. Always there is the "why?" being asked along with the "what do we do about it?" I believe the answers will come when we reconnect with the awesome message of Scripture and instead of trying to work FOR God, we follow the example of Christ and work WITH God.



This photo is of Curramulka Uniting Church on the night the town turned on its Christmas lights. Like many YP churches Curramulka UC is not what it once was. However, the light of God's love is still shining there. A small group of people are hearing the hope in those powerful words at the beginning of John's gospel. The lights around the front door may seem a bit insignificant compared to others nearby, but they are shining and the love and hope they represent will keep on shining long after Christmas. May it be so for all of us.

May the Lord bless you as you share in worship this Christmas time, and as you allow the power in the words of John 1:1 to take you boldly into 2026 with renewed hope.

Rev. Jane McDonald Email: sjanemcdonald71@gmail.com

Coming soon and soonish

YPRMC meeting: Tuesday, December 16th, 5.00pm, Ardrossan Uniting Church.

Christmas Worship across YP:

Christmas Eve Services will be held at Kadina, Maitland, Moonta, Ardrossan and Edithburgh, all at 7.00pm.
Christmas Day Services at Wallaroo (8.30am), and Stansbury (10.00am).

AED Compliance: Congregations should have received their AED by the end of December. The unit needs to be installed asap, BUT it does not have to be on an outside wall. It only needs to be available when the church premises are being used by the public, so it can be installed inside the building that is most often in use. If placed on an external wall, it will not be covered by insurance in the event of vandalism, and you would then have to pay the full amount of a replacement unit.

Moonta Family Mission: January 5th-9th, 2026. For details contact Seb & Dee (moonta@suteams.org.au)

YPRMC 2026: the first meeting for the new year will be held on Wednesday, January 21st.

Tummy-Filla Fridays: Moonta UC will be continuing their caring for the wider community in 2026 with this ministry every first Friday of the month. Chris Thornton has a list of items you may like to contribute.

Northern Cluster & Southern Cluster meals: The first round of these for 2026 will take place on Tuesday 24th February (Northern dinner at Kadina), and Thursday, 26th February (Southern lunch at Minlaton).

The following from Val McLean just missed November's issue, but February is not that far away:



Sunday November 9th, saw a packed house at Dowlingville UC, including many young people. With piano, guitars and lively singing, the church responded with clapping and great vocals! Guest speaker Trent Whittaker didn't quite have his audience fooled with his Irish accent introduction, but he did have them laughing at his recapping of where everyone sat when he was growing up in that church. The story of his five years in Port Lincoln with his family while doing a building apprenticeship, and where he and his wife Trina's reliance on God saw them through many challenging situations was engaging. They showed pictures from their time in Port Lincoln, including the house building workplace where the units were built on railway lines and slid along at each new stage. Trent said it was all hands on deck when the boss called for the building to be pushed. Apprentices came from all over the yard to put their backs into the move. At the end of the service, most people stayed to have lunch and chat.

February Dowlingville service: Sunday, 8th, 2026 and it may be an evening service held outdoors.

**** The next issue of UCA News from around YP** will be in February 2026. (I need a bit of a break, folks!)

It's Christmas

- ◆ Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? (Rude-olph)
- ◆ Why did the doughnut maker sell his shop? (He got fed up with the hole business)
- ◆ What do you get hanging from Santa's roof? (Tired arms)
- ◆ What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time? (Some day my prints will come)

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, he asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him, horrified, then asked, "Didn't you get my email?"

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner in the dock, "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's not an offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" The man replied, "Before the store opened."

On a more serious note:

Theologian, Thomas Aquinas summarised Advent as a season to observe the three comings of Christ:

Christ's coming in his Incarnation
Christ's second coming in judgment and glory
Christ's personal coming to our hearts

At Christmas remember these two important truths:
The wise still seek him and the world still needs a stable influence.